

**REMARKS**

The applicant has carefully considered the official action mailed on April 30, 2008, and the reference cited therein. In the official action, claims 1-24 were rejected as anticipated by Kotaki. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

By way of the foregoing amendments, claims 1, 8, and 15 have been amended, leaving claims 1-24 pending in this application. No new matter has been added.

As an initial matter, the applicant wishes to thank Examiner Durham for the productive phone interview conducted with the undersigned attorney on June 30, 2008. During the interview, the undersigned attorney discussed the foregoing amended claim language with the examiner. The examiner indicated that such claim language would overcome the Kotaki reference.

Independent claim 1 recites a method of generating embroidery data from image data involving generating occluded boundary information associated with a singular region, wherein the occluded boundary information represents a merging of at least two regular regions of a plurality of regions and associated with the singular region into a single continuous area to be embroidered. Kotaki does not describe or suggest the generation of occluded boundary information as recited in claim 1.

Thus, because Kotaki fails to disclose each and every limitation recited in claim 1, this claim is not anticipated thereby. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 and claims 2-7 and 22 dependent thereon are in condition for allowance.

The applicant respectfully submits that the remaining claims 8-21, 23, and 24 are also allowable for at least the reasons set forth above in connection with independent claim 1.

Thus, for at least the foregoing reasons, the applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. If there are any remaining issues in this application, the applicant urges the examiner to contact the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency in the attached fees toward payment of any fee due for the filing of this paper to deposit account number 50-2455.

Respectfully submitted,

/Mark G. Hanley/  
Mark G. Hanley  
Reg. No. 44,736  
Attorney for Applicant(s)  
150 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 2100  
Chicago, IL 60606  
(312) 580-1020

**June 30, 2008**